

National Wilderness Steering Committee of the National Park Service

The National Wilderness Steering Committee (NWSC) of the National Park Service is comprised of superintendents and multidisciplinary staff from across the National Park System whose purpose is to serve as an advisory body to the Director on all matters pertaining to wilderness in the National Park System and enhance the ability of the agency to address critical wilderness stewardship issues.

The Committee assists the Directorate and national parks in developing and implementing programs and projects that improve the accountability, consistency, and continuity of the National Park Service wilderness stewardship. Another objective of the NWSC is to facilitate the understanding of wilderness stewardship as a core mission of the National Park Service in which virtually all disciplines in the National Park Service workforce have important roles and responsibilities—resource protection, resources management, science, education, trail maintenance, training, etc. The NWSC also facilitates and encourages the National Park Service to become a leading partner in wilderness stewardship efforts within the framework of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Consistent with the organizational structure of the National Park Service, the primary functions of the NWSC include:

- Developing and or reviewing changes to NPS Management Policies and other guidance on wilderness preservation and management;
- Monitoring wilderness program progress including identification of problems and issues, recommendation of management responses to these issues, and development of the specific programs and products needed to implement recommended solutions;
- Reviewing and making recommendations on program communications systems, wilderness education, planning, and training efforts;
- Providing a forum for assisting parks in resolving wilderness issues;
- Providing Wilderness Management Planning Assistance; and
- Facilitating interagency liaisons and consistency

The NWSC meets biannually with minutes for the meetings located on the Internet at www.wilderness.nps.gov. These notes provide updated information on Servicewide wilderness issues and opportunities for NPS staff involvement.

